# Higher Education Policy Recommendations

Latino Engagement Task Force
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Neighborhood and Community Relations

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# **MN Higher Education Policy Recommendations**

#### Removing Barriers to Develop Untapped Talent in Minneapolis High Schools

Increasingly, given Minnesota's racial and ethnic demographic shifts, the college graduates essential to sustain and grow Minnesota's prosperity will need to be developed from the state's population of students of color and immigrant students.

Given that Latino, immigrant students' rapid-growth in number in Minneapolis's K-12 schools, these academic trends point towards serious economic implications. When combined with their current low high school graduation rates and lower higher education attainment rates for this group, an opportunity exists for accelerating academic success rates with these students to secure Minneapolis's economic progress.

Recommendation 1
In State Tuition



Recommendation 2
De-Link State
Student Financial
Aid from Federal
System



Recommendation 3
Authorize use of
Private Funds



ACADEMIC EQUITY

# Change Residency Eligibility:

Allow all students graduating from Minnesota's high schools to pay in state tuition rates in MN's public colleges and universities.

#### MNAFSA (Minnesota Application for Financial Student Aid):

Allow all students graduating from MN's high schools to qualify for State Student Financial Aid

#### Private Scholarships:

Authorize the use of private funds to create scholarships for undocumented students in public Colleges and Universities.

#### Impact:

- A college educated workforce in Minnesota
- College graduates will be able to compete in the global economy
- Increase graduation rates in high schools and enrollment in postsecondary education
- ROI: greater paid taxes at local, state and federal levels
- People of color will start climbing out poverty.

### State Laws and Policies Enacted

Since 2001 many States have enacted laws and policies that provide access to post-secondary education to all immigrant students, regardless of their immigration status:

- Twelve states have laws allowing students who meet specific requirements, regardless of their status, to pay in-state tuition rates at public postsecondary institutions (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Washington).
- Rhode Island's Board of Governors for Higher Education also adopted a policy permitting eligible students to pay in-state tuition rates, regardless of their status.
- Laws in three states California, New Mexico, and Texas provide access to state financial aid to students who meet certain criteria, regardless of their status.
- Illinois and California offer access to privately-funded scholarships for these students.
- Minnesota offers a "flat" tuition rate to all students regardless of immigration status or residency in 23 colleges and 2 State Universities in the MNSCU system. The University of Minnesota does not offer in state tuition.

# LAWS ENACTED PROVIDING EDUCATION EQUITY

State	Year Enacted	Bill Number	Requirement: Years of high school in State	In State Tuition	State Financial Aid	Affidavit	Privately Funded Scholarships
California	2001 2011 2011	AB 540 AB 130 AB 131	3 years	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	2011	HB 3690	4 years	Yes		Yes	
Maryland	2011	SB 167	3 years	Yes		Yes	
Rhode Island	2011	Residency Policy S-5.0	3 years	Yes		Yes	
Illinois	2003	HB 60 SB 2185	3 Years	Yes		Yes	Yes
Oklahoma	2003	SB 596  HB 1804-Preserved  Discretion	2 Years	Yes, Board of Regents Policy		Yes	
Nebraska	2006	LB 239	3 Years	Yes		Yes	
New Mexico	2005	SB 582	1 Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Texas	2001	HB 1403 SB 1528 (amends HB 1403)	3 Years	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Kansas	2004	HB 2145	3 Years	Yes		Yes	
Washington	2003	НВ 1079	Complete full senior year and live in state for 3 years prior to diploma	Yes		Yes	
Utah	2002	HB 144	3 Years	Yes		Yes	
New York	2002	SB 7784	2 Years	Yes		Yes	

# Frequently Asked Questions:

How many persons who are undocumented could be eligible for the Minnesota higher education grant program?

- The number of eligible students will be dependent upon such factors as income of the student and the parents. Such information does not currently exist. However, estimates have been made about the number of non-documented persons who are eligible for the Department of Homeland Security's "deferred action" status.
- Deferred action includes persons 16 to 30 years of age who are undocumented, are either in school or have graduated from high school or have a GED and have been in the United States for at least five years.
- The Immigration Policy Center (IPC) estimates that approximately 6,010 undocumented persons between the ages of 16 and 30 reside in Minnesota.

Do other states permit undocumented students to apply for state assistance?

• Yes. California, Texas, and New Mexico have such programs. The Texas program was approved in 2005 while the California program approved in 2011 was implemented in 2013. New Mexico's program began in 2005.

What are the eligibility criteria to apply for state assistance?

• In all three states an undocumented person must have graduated from a high school in the state. California and Texas requires that a person attend three years of high school in the state while New Mexico requires one year of in-state high school attendance. A person can be eligible if he or she received a GED. The applicant must also sign an affidavit confirming high school attendance and indicating that he/she will apply for legal residency as soon as he/she is eligible to do so.

Do the states have an application for state aid?

• California and Texas have developed application procedures that require academic, person and income information. If the applicant is a dependent the parents' income information must be provided.

What has been the financial impact of undocumented students receiving state grants?

• California's program began on January 2, 2013. Applications are being accepted for the 2013-2014 academic year and as a result no data is available. In FY10 in Texas,2495 students received state funded financial awards. The awards were funded by \$9.53 million in state revenue. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board estimates that the students receiving the awards paid \$32.7 million in tuition and fees.